

Amendments to the Claims:

The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for coating an article, said apparatus comprising:
- ~~an~~ first applicator comprising a convex exterior surface;
 - a conveyor for sequentially transporting a plurality of articles to said first applicator; and
 - a metering bar comprising a fixed arcuate end positioned against said convex exterior surface of said first applicator to meter a predetermined amount of coating composition to said convex exterior surface of said first applicator for transfer from said convex exterior surface of said first applicator to an article transported to said applicator by said conveyor,
 - said metering bar forming a nip with said convex exterior surface of said first applicator and exerting a force against said first applicator,
 - said predetermined amount of coating composition being determined, in part, by said force of said metering bar and a hydraulic force present at said nip; and
 - wherein said first applicator comprises an endless belt.

Claims 2-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a second applicator and a second metering bar positioned against said second applicator to meter a predetermined amount of coating composition to said second applicator, said second applicator being positioned to receive the article from said conveyor.

12. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said first applicator comprises a roller and said fixed arcuate end of said metering bar is positioned against said roller.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein said second applicator comprises a roller.

14. Cancel

15. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim ~~14~~12, wherein said second applicator comprises an endless belt.

16. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said apparatus is capable of substantially simultaneously

- a) transferring a coating composition from said first applicator to a first side of the article, and
- b) transferring a coating composition from said second applicator to a second side of the article opposite said first side of the article.

17. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the article is a roll of tape and said apparatus is capable of substantially simultaneously

- a) transferring a coating composition from said first applicator to a first edge face of a roll of tape, and
- b) transferring a coating composition from said second applicator to a second edge face of the roll of tape opposite said first edge face of the roll of tape.

18. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said first applicator and said second applicator are positioned to maintain the article between said first applicator and said second applicator.

19. (Currently Amended) A system for manufacturing coated articles, said system comprising

a first station comprising a coating apparatus comprising

~~an~~ a first applicator comprising a convex exterior surface,

a conveyor capable of sequentially transporting a plurality of articles to said first applicator, and

a metering bar positioned against said convex exterior surface of said first applicator to meter a predetermined amount of coating composition to said convex exterior surface of said first applicator for transfer from said convex exterior surface of said first applicator to an article transported to said first applicator by said conveyor,

said metering bar forming a nip with said convex exterior surface of said first applicator and exerting a force against said first applicator,

said predetermined amount of coating composition being determined, in part, by said force of said metering bar and a hydraulic force present at said nip,

a second station for solidifying the coating composition disposed on the article;

wherein said first applicator comprises an endless belt;

Claims 20-24. (Cancelled)

25. (Previously presented) The system of claim 19, further comprising a second applicator positioned to receive the article from said conveyor, and a second metering bar positioned against said second applicator to meter a predetermined amount of coating composition to said second applicator.

26. (Original) The system of claim 19, further comprising a second applicator positioned opposite said first applicator, and a second metering bar positioned against said second applicator to meter a predetermined amount of coating composition to said second applicator.

27. (Original) The system of claim 26, wherein said first applicator comprises a roller and said second applicator comprises a roller.

28. (Original) The system of claim 26, wherein said first applicator comprises an endless belt.

Claims 29-57. (Cancelled)

58. (Previously Presented) A system for manufacturing coated articles, said system comprising

a first station comprising a coating apparatus comprising

a first applicator comprising an endless belt,

a conveyor capable of sequentially transporting a plurality of articles to said first applicator, and

a metering bar positioned against said first applicator to meter a predetermined amount of coating composition to said first applicator for transfer to the article transported to said first applicator by said conveyor;

a second applicator positioned to receive the article from said conveyor, and a second metering bar positioned against said second applicator to meter a predetermined amount of coating composition to said second applicator, wherein said second applicator is positioned opposite said first applicator; and

a second station for solidifying the coating composition disposed on the article.

Claims 59-75. Canceled